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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 2, Line 9 as follows:

According to this invention there is also provided a method for filling a muffler shell with a fibrous material, ~~with the~~ The method including includes providing an outer muffler shell having at least one muffler chamber defined within the outer muffler shell, wetting the fibrous material by forcing moisturized compressed air into contact with the fibrous material, and inserting the wetted fibrous material into the muffler chamber.

Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 2, Line 15 as follows:

According to this invention there is also provided a method for filling a muffler shell with a fibrous material. The method includes providing a muffler shell having a lower outer shell, applying a temporary form to the lower outer shell to define a muffler chamber within the lower outer shell, texturizing the fibrous material by forcing compressed air through the fibrous material, and wetting the texturized fibrous material by applying ~~a fluid~~ water to the texturized fibrous material. The texturized and wetted fibrous material is inserted into the enclosed muffler chamber, and the temporary form is removed from the lower outer shell.

Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 6, Line 3 as follows:

Fig. 5 shows an alternative embodiment of the invention using a perforated form 20. The perforated form 20 is similar in size and shape to the temporary form 12, but is formed from a material having perforations 22. The perforations 22 may be of any suitable size and shape to allow air entering the muffler chamber 14 during the filling process to escape the muffler chamber 14, ~~which~~ subsequently allows the fibrous material to fully fill the muffler chamber 14. The perforated form 20 may also include an opening 24 placed along the joint between the lower outer shell 10 and the

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perforated form 20 to accommodate the filling apparatus. It will be appreciated however, that the opening 24 may also be omitted, as any of the perforations 22 on the perforated form 20 may be used to accommodate the introduction of the fibrous material.

Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 7, Line 4 as follows:

After the lower outer shell 10 is fitted with the temporary form 12 or upper outer shell 40, the muffler chamber 14 is ready to be filled with fibrous material. A filling apparatus 26 is inserted into the fill opening 18 of the temporary form 12 to fill the muffler chamber 14. The filling apparatus 26 will be explained in greater detail below. At this point, a vacuum apparatus, not shown, may also be connected to the sealable inlets 15 on the temporary form 12. The vacuum apparatus may be used to draw a partial vacuum in the enclosed muffler chamber 14 during the filling process to draw the fibrous material 29 into the enclosed muffler chamber 14. Where a single outer shell 50 design is used, as shown in Fig. 3 6, the filling apparatus 26 may be inserted directly into an open end 51, 52 of the outer shell 50.

Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 7, Line 22 as follows:

Fig. 8 illustrates the filling apparatus 26 having a fluid inlet 36 connected to the compressed air inlet 34. To fill the muffler chamber 14, a rope 29 of fibrous material is inserted into the fibrous material inlet 30. The rope 29 of fibrous material is preferably a multi-stranded rope of straight glass fibers, although it will be appreciated that any suitable fibrous material may be used. As the rope 29 is fed through the filling apparatus 26, the rope 29 enters a texturizing chamber 31. The compressed air inlet 34 provides compressed air to the texturizing chamber 31. The fluid inlet 36, which is connected to the compressed air inlet 34, provides a metered flow of fluid into the compressed air prior to the compressed air's entering the texturizing chamber 31. The addition of the fluid moisturizes the compressed air. Preferably, the fluid

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used to moisturize the compressed air is water, although it will be appreciated that any suitable wetting fluid may be used to moisturize the compressed air. When the rope 29 enters the texturizing chamber 31, the moisturized compressed air within the texturizing chamber 31 separates and tumbles the individual glass fibers 33 of the rope 29. The moisture in the compressed air also wets the individual glass fibers 33 during this texturizing process. After the fibers 33 have been texturized and wetted, the fibers 33 are advanced into the filling nozzle 28. The fibers 33 are propelled by the compressed air in the texturing chamber 31 through the filling nozzle 28 and out an open end 35 in the filling nozzle 28. The open end 29 35 of the filling nozzle 28 is inserted into the fill opening 18 of the temporary form 12.

Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 8, Line 14 as follows:

The texturizing of the individual glass fibers 33 fluffs the individual glass fibers 33 by bending and twisting the fibers 33, which allows the fibers 33 to fill the muffler chamber 14 when the fibers 33 are inserted. The wetting of the fibers 33 supplies a cohesive force that keeps the texturized fibers 33 from expanding beyond the bounds of the shape set by the temporary form 12 when the temporary form 12 is removed. Where a single outer shell 50 configuration is used, the cohesive force of the wetted fibers prevents the texturized fibers 33 from expanding beyond the bounds of the outer shell 50. The holding together of the wetted fibers ~~provide~~ provides a particular advantage over unwetted fibers because the wetted fibers will subsequently not expand or spring out of the temporary form 12 when the temporary form 12 is removed from the lower outer shell 10. Where a single outer shell construction is used, the wetted fibers will not expand or spring out of the muffler chamber 14 defined by the outer shell 50. Thus, the cohesive force supplied by the wetting process prevents substantially any of the fibers from straying onto the joining surface for either the lower outer shell 10 and the upper outer shell 40 or the outer shell 50 and the end caps 53.

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Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 9, Line 3 as follows:

Fig. 9 shows a second embodiment of the filling apparatus 26B, which contains a fluid inlet 36 that is independent of the compressed air inlet 34. The fluid inlet 36 provides a fluid source directly into the texturizing chamber 31, as opposed to connecting the fluid inlet 36 to the compressed air inlet 34 to moisturize the compressed air, as in the previous embodiment. The compressed air inlet 34 supplies compressed air, which is not moisturized, into the texturizing chamber 31. When the rope 29 enters the texturizing chamber 31, the compressed air within the texturizing chamber 31 separates and tumbles the individual glass fibers 33 of the rope 29. At the same time that texturization of the fibers 33 occurs, a metered flow of fluid is dispensed into the texturizing chamber 31. The fluid provided directly into the texturizing chamber 31 wets the fibers 33 during the texturization process before they are moved by the compressed air into the filling nozzle 28. Preferably, the fluid used to wet the fibers 33 is water, although it will be appreciated that any suitable wetting fluid may be used to wet the fibers 33. After the fibers 33 have been texturized and wetted, the fibers 33 are advanced into the filling nozzle 28. The fibers 33 are propelled by the compressed air in the texturing chamber 31 through the filling nozzle 28 and out an open end 35 in the filling nozzle 28. The open end ~~29~~ 35 of the filling nozzle 28 is inserted into the fill opening 18 of the temporary form 12.

Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 9, Line 21 as follows:

Fig. 10 shows a third embodiment of the filling apparatus 26C, which also contains a fluid inlet 36 that is independent of the compressed air inlet 34. However, in this embodiment, the fluid inlet 36 provides fluid into the filling nozzle 28 instead of into the texturizing chamber 31. As with the second embodiment, the compressed air inlet 34 supplies compressed air, which is not moisturized, into the texturizing chamber 31. When the rope 29 enters the texturizing chamber 31, the compressed air

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within the texturizing chamber 31 separates and tumbles the individual glass fibers 33 of the rope 29. After the fibers 33 have been texturized, the fibers 33 are advanced into the filling nozzle 28. A fluid inlet 36 positioned on the filling nozzle 28 supplies a metered fluid flow into the filling nozzle 28. Preferably, the fluid used to wet the fibers 33 is water, although it will be appreciated that any suitable wetting fluid may be used to wet the fibers 33. As the fibers 33 enter the filling nozzle 28 they are wetted by the fluid provided in the filling nozzle 28. The texturized and wetted fibers 33 are then expelled out the open end 35 in the filling nozzle 28. The open end 29 35 of the filling nozzle 28 is inserted into the fill opening 18 of the temporary form 12.